

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4-7, 12 and 14-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 11, respectively, claims 4, 5, 12, 14 and 15 are amended for consistency, claims 2, 3, 8-11 and 13 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 20-26 are added. New claim 20 corresponds to original claims 7 and 13. New claims 21-24 correspond to original claims 15, 16, 18 and 19. New claim 25 corresponds to original claims 1, 6 and 17. New claim 26 corresponds to original claims 7, 16 and 18. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates Examiner Kramer's indication that Claims 3, 4 and 11-14 recite allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 3 and 11, respectively (the subject matter of claim 11 having been clarified in response to the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection discussed below). Thus, independent claims 1 and 7, along with dependent claims 4-7, 12 and 14-19, are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 11.

However, the subject matter of claim 11, which is now incorporated into claim 7, is clarified in response to the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 7, 15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kawasaki, JP-A-2002-264066; rejects claims 2 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawasaki in view of Mimura et al. ("Mimura"), U.S. Patent No. 5,437,490; and rejects claims 1, 5-7, 9, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mosher, U.S. Patent No. 4,551,058, in view of Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 5,088,171. The rejections are rendered moot by the above amendments.

New claims 20-26 are presented for consideration. New independent claim 20 corresponds to original claims 7 and 13. As discussed above, the Office Action indicates that claim 13 recites allowable subject matter. Thus, independent claim 20 and dependent claims 21-24 are allowable.

New claim 25 corresponds to original claims 1, 6 and 17. Accordingly, claim 25 recites a multi-finger grasping mechanism having a plurality of finger units, wherein at least one of the finger units includes, *inter alia*, a drill, driver bit, or other operating tool is coaxially mounted on the rotating member of the fingertip part.

The Office Action asserts that the features of a drill, driver bit, or other operating tool is coaxially mounted on the rotating member of the fingertip part are disclosed by the combination of Mosher and Suzuki because Suzuki discloses a drilling unit mounted on an arm of an assembly robot (see Figs. 1-3). However, neither Mosher nor Suzuki disclose a multi-finger grasping mechanism having a plurality of finger units as recited in independent claim 25. Mosher simply discloses a wrist mechanism for articulating an end effector tool (see Fig. 1). Suzuki simply discloses an arm of an assembly robot having a drilling unit (see Figs. 1-3). In addition, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify either of the robot hand disclosed by Kawasaki and the robot hand disclosed by Mimura to

include the drilling unit disclosed by Suzuki. In this regard, each of the robot hands disclosed by Kawasaki and Mimura are configured to handle and manipulate an object by gripping/grasping (see Figs. 3-5, 8, 9 and 11 of Kawasaki and Fig. 1 of Mimura). In contrast, the robot arms disclosed by Mosher and Suzuki are directed to arm units having a working tool mounted on the end for effecting the tool on a workpiece. These robot arms are not concerned with handling and manipulating an object by gripping/grasping. Thus, one skilled in the art would not have looked to Suzuki to modify the robot hands disclosed by Kawasaki and Mimura. Moreover, providing fingers of these robot hands with the drilling unit of Suzuki would inhibit the robot hands from gripping/grasping or handling an object, thus rendering the robot hands unsatisfactory for their intended purpose (see MPEP §2143.01(V)). Thus, independent claim 25 is patentable over the applied references for at least these reasons.

New claim 26 corresponds to original claims 7, 16 and 18, and recites a multi-finger grasping mechanism having a plurality of multi-joint finger units, wherein at least one of the multi-joint finger includes, *inter alia*, a drill, driver bit, or other operating tool is coaxially mounted on the rotating member of the fingertip part. For at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 25, independent claim 26 also is patentable over the applied references.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

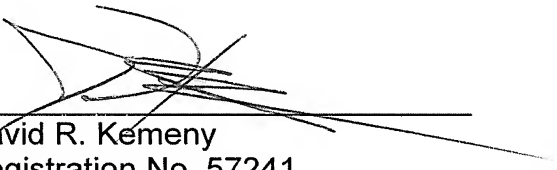
in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: February 27, 2009

By:

  
David R. Kemeny  
Registration No. 57241

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404  
703 836 6620